



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

DOUGLAS KRESS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
Regular Meeting
February 20, 2020
50 Evergreen Avenue

Present:

Douglas Kress, Director
Brian Green, MD (Chair)
Paula Machado, Board Member
Robert Ciccio, Board Member
Kathy Teixeira, Recording Secretary

Absent:

None

Staff Members in Attendance:

None

Guests:

Representatives from CHA, Two (2) College Students (observing the meeting)

Meeting Called to Order:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was called to order at 5:31pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

Previous Minutes:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the January 7, 2020 minutes were approved and accepted. It was seconded by Ms. Machado. All in Favor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

CHA Update:

A brief overview was presented to the board for plans to convert the Somerville Hospital Emergency Department to Urgent Care effective April 30, 2020. This is in part to meet the changing needs of the community. Planning is underway for a safe and seamless transition, external signage will go up to reflect and support the name change which will become **CHA Somerville Campus** and **CHA Somerville Urgent Care**. Communications are underway to alert the community of these changes and marketing campaign to introduce the new CHA Somerville Urgent Care Center to their patients, staff and the community. More information can be found on their website.

ISD/Health Division Updates:

Rodent activity continues to be a problem and a challenge to control it. Baiting prior to construction will be enforced and violators will be fined. The two (2) health inspectors who recently left the city, there is no replacement yet interviews are still ongoing. Maureen Lee who works as a health inspector consultant has been rehired to do restaurant inspections until the city hires new health inspectors.

Director Updates:

Ted Louis-Jacques was recently hired as the city's new Veterans' Director. The city has received some grants to implement a dental program and area dentists were invited to a meeting with the Mayor to go over the program. The HHS Department received another grant on opioids which will focus on the homeless population. This grant is a joint partnership with CHA. Mental health services continue to be a challenge and we have put together an internal document to really look at mental health services. A proposal is being worked on to convert 165 Broadway into a wellness center. Most of the tobacco regulations lawsuits filed against the city have now been dismissed. Coronavirus also known as COVID19 is starting to spread. It originated in China. We are in constant contact with the state DPH and CDC. We are working on an ep drill which is scheduled for early spring.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 26 @ 5:30pm – 50 Evergreen Avenue

Adjournment:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado. .

List of Documents:

Notice/Agenda, Sign-In-Sheet, January 7, 2020 Minutes, CHA Overview Plan

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Teixeira (Recording Secretary)
February 25, 2020